

**What is claimed is:**

1. A protective endcap for use with a first cable connector and a second cable connector, the first and second connectors including mating ends, the mating ends of the connectors adapted to electrically and physically mate with each other, the mating end of the first connector defining a first gender and the mating end of the second connector defining a second gender, the endcap comprising:

a body with a first end and an opposing second end, the first end adapted to mate with the mating end of the first connector and the second end adapted to mate with the mating end of the second connector;

the first end of the body including a first axial opening extending into the body, the first opening including a first intermediate wall sized to receive and engage the mating end of the first connector;

the second end of the body including a second axial opening extending into the body, the second opening including a second intermediate wall sized to receive and engage the mating end of the second connector;

the first and second intermediate walls defining an inner bulkhead within the body, the inner bulkhead closing off each of the openings.

2. The protective endcap of claim 1, wherein the engagement between the first axial opening and the first connector is a friction fit.

3. The protective endcap of claim 1, wherein the engagement between the second axial opening and the second connector is a friction fit.

4. The protective endcap of claim 1, further comprising a tether connected to the body for attaching the body to a connector.

5. The protective endcap of claim 1, wherein the first end of the body includes an inward facing circumferential lip for selectively engaging a protective boot positioned about the first cable connector and the second end of the body includes an outward facing

circumferential lip for selectively engaging a protective boot positioned about the second cable connector.

6. The protective endcap of claim 1, wherein the first and second intermediate walls within the first and second openings are in recesses in inner faces of the inner bulkhead.

7. A protective endcap for use with a first cable connector and a second cable connector, the first and second cable connectors including mating ends and positioned within protective boots, the mating ends of the cable connectors adapted to electrically and physically mate with each other, the mating end of the first cable connector defining a first gender and the mating end of the second cable connector defining a second gender, the mating ends of the first and second cable connectors accessible through connector openings of the boot of each cable connector, the endcap comprising:

- a body with a first end and an opposing second end, the first end adapted to mate with the mating end of the first cable connector and the second end adapted to mate with the mating end of the second cable connector;

- the first end of the body including a first axial opening extending into the body, the first opening including a first intermediate wall sized to receive and engage the mating end of the first cable connector;

- the second end of the body including a second axial opening extending into the body, the second opening including a second intermediate wall sized to receive and engage the mating end of the second cable connector;

- the first end of the body including an inward facing circumferential lip adjacent an outer wall of the first end for selectively engaging the connector end of the boot of the first cable connector and the second end of the body includes an outward facing circumferential lip adjacent the second axial opening for selectively engaging the connector end of the boot of the second cable connector.

8. A pair of protective boots for cable connectors comprising:

- a first boot and a second boot;

the first boot including a cable end and a first connector end, the first boot adapted to fit about a first cable connector with a first mating end adjacent the first connector end;

the second boot including a cable end and a second connector end, the second boot adapted to fit about a second connector with a second mating end adjacent the second connector end;

the first connector end including an outward facing circumferential lip, and the second connector end including an inward facing circumferential lip, the outward and inward facing circumferential lips sized and configured to engage each other when the first and second mating ends of the cable connectors are brought together to form a junction about the mating ends of the connectors;

each cable end sized to receive a cable extending from the cable connector opposite the mating end of the connector.

9. The pair of protective boots of claim 8, wherein the interior space of each boot includes a plurality of ridges extending from an inner wall into the interior space, and each cable connector includes a plurality of grooves, the ridges of the boot adapted and positioned to engage the grooves of the cable connector when the connector is positioned within the boot.

10. The pair of protective boots of claim 8, wherein each of the boots includes an outer wall and a plurality of finger grooves is formed in the outer wall of each boot.

11. The pair of protective boots of claim 8, wherein each boot includes a tapered portion extending from an interior space for receiving the connector to the cable opening, the cable end decreasing in size from a wide end adjacent the interior space of each boot to a narrow end adjacent the cable opening.

12. The pair of protective boots of claim 8, further comprising a first and a second endcap, each endcap including a first end with an inward facing circumferential lip adapted mate with lip of the connector end of the first boot and a second end with an

outward facing circumferential lip adapted to mate with the lip of the connector end of the second boot.

13. A cable connector assembly comprising:

- a first cable connector with a mating end and a cable extending away from the connector opposite the mating end;

- a first protective boot with a circumferential mating lip at a connector opening, an interior space for receiving the first cable connector and a cable end opposite the connector opening;

- the first connector positioned within the interior space of the first boot with the mating end adjacent the connector opening and the cable extending through the cable end, the cable end adapted to fit closely about the cable;

- a first endcap with a first end positioned about the mating end of the first connector, the first end including a circumferential mating lip, the lips of the first end of the first endcap and the first boot mating to form a junction adjacent the mating end of the first connector;

- the first endcap also including a second end adapted to fit about a second cable connector which includes a mating end adapted to physically and electrically mate with the mating end of the first connector, and a second circumferential lip adapted to mate with and form a junction with a second protective boot positioned about the second connector.

14. The cable connector assembly of claim 13, wherein the first endcap includes a tether having an opening sized to fit about the first protective boot.

15. The cable connector assembly of claim 13, further comprising the second cable connector, the second boot and a second endcap, the second boot including a circumferential mating lip adapted to mate with the circumferential mating lip of the first boot and form a junction between the two boots, the second endcap including a first end and a second end, the second end of the second endcap positioned about the mating end of the second connector and including a circumferential mating lip, the lips of the second

end of the second endcap and the second boot mating to form a junction adjacent the mating end of the second connector.

16. The cable connector assembly of claim 15, wherein the first and second endcaps are adapted to mate with and form junctions with either the first boot or the second boot.

17. A protective endcap for use with a first cable connector and a second cable connector, the first and second cable connectors including mating ends and positioned within protective boots, the mating ends of the cable connectors adapted to electrically and physically mate with each other, the mating end of the first cable connector defining a first gender and the mating end of the second cable connector defining a second gender, the mating ends of the first and second cable connectors accessible through connector openings of the boot of each cable connector, the endcap comprising:

- a body with a first end and an opposing second end, the first end adapted to mate with the mating end of the first cable connector and the second end adapted to mate with the mating end of second cable connector;

- the first end of the body including a first axial opening extending into the body, the first opening including a first intermediate wall sized to receive and engage the mating end of the first cable connector;

- the second end of the body including a second axial opening extending into the body, the second opening including a second intermediate wall sized to receive and engage the mating end of the second cable connector;

- the first end of the body including an interlock arrangement for selectively engaging and forming a junction with the boot of the first cable connector and the second end of the body including an interlock arrangement for selectively engaging and forming a junction with the boot of the second cable connector.

18. A pair of protective boots for cable connectors comprising:

- a first boot and a second boot;

the first boot including a cable end and a first connector end, the first boot adapted to fit about a first cable connector with a first mating end adjacent the first connector end;

the second boot including a cable end and a second connector end, the second boot adapted to fit about a second connector with a second mating end adjacent the second connector end;

the first connector end and the second connector end including an interlocking arrangement to selectively engage each other and form a junction about the mating ends of the connectors when the first and second mating ends of the cable connectors are brought together.

19. A method of connecting cable connectors comprising:

providing first and second cable connectors and first and second protective boots mounted about the first and second connectors, respectively, the first connector including a first mating end and the second connector including a second mating end, each of the first and second boots including a connector end;

mating the first mating end with the second mating end so that the first and second connectors are electrically and physically joined;

interlocking the connector ends of the first and second protective boots to form a junction about the first and second mating ends.

20. A method of covering a mating end of a cable connector comprising:

providing a cable connector of a first or a second gender, the genders defined so that a connector of the first gender mates with a connector of the second gender;

selecting an appropriate end of a dual ended endcap;

mating the selected end of the endcap with the mating end of the connector.

21. The method of claim 19, further providing the cable connector positioned within a protective boot, and further comprising mating the selected end of the endcap with the protective boot to form a junction about the mating end.